

Amendments to the Claims

1-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) A method for provisioning a data link connection identifier in a first network upon a request from a browser wherein the first network comprises at least one permanent virtual connection, and wherein the virtual connection is associated with one or more existing identifiers, the method comprising:

connecting a network management system to the first network, the network management system storing the one or more existing identifiers prior to the request from the browser;

connecting a network management module to the network management system via a second network to obtain the one or more existing identifiers, the network management module;

residing within a web server;

compiling the one or more existing identifiers upon receiving the request from the browser, the request including a geographic selection chosen from a group consisting of a state, a group of states and a portion of a state; and

querying the network management system with the network management module over the second network for the one or more existing identifiers;

provisioning a source identifier and a destination identifier to create a new permanent virtual connection between two logical ports;

remotely displaying the one or more existing identifiers in a web page over ~~the~~ an external third network using the network management module in response to the browser request, the request containing at least one of a logical and physical port name, wherein further the web page comprises existing identifier information associated with each of the existing identifiers of a source switch and a destination switch ~~including at least~~ consisting of an identification of the Source Switch, a Source Logical Port Name, a Source DLCI, a Source Service Type, ~~and further including at least~~ an identification of the Destination Switch, a Destination Logical Port Name, a Destination DLCI, a Destination Service Type and a Committed Information Rate;

viewing the one or more existing identifiers by a service technician, and

choosing, by the service technician both the source identifier and the destination identifier to create the new permanent virtual connection where the source identifier and the destination identifier differ from each of the displayed existing identifiers.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein connecting a network management module includes connecting the network management system using a client-server architecture.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein querying includes querying the network management system with a client device.

13. (Currently Amended) A system for provisioning an identifier to be associated with an endpoint of a new virtual connection for a switch in a first network in communication with a network management system for storing switch identifiers, the system comprising:

means for the network management system to collect existing switch identifiers in-band over the first network and from an out of band network using a network management protocol;

means for querying the network management system with a network management module over a second network to obtain the existing switch identifiers associated with at least two switches, the existing switch identifiers being stored by the network management system prior to the query;

means for remotely displaying the existing switch identifiers associated with the at least two switches over an external third network using the network management module, ~~wherein the network management module is resident on a web server~~ wherein the means for remotely displaying the existing switch identifiers includes a web page that comprises existing identifier information associated with each of the existing switch identifiers of a source switch and a destination switch consisting of an identification of the Source Switch, a Source Logical Port Name, a Source DLCI, a Source Service Type, an identification of the Destination Switch, a Destination Logical Port Name, a Destination DLCI, a Destination Service Type and a Committed Information Rate; and

means for manually provisioning a source identifier and a destination identifier for a new virtual connection between two logical ports, wherein both the provisioned source identifier and the provisioned destination identifier differ from the displayed existing switch identifiers.

14. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13, further comprising means for connecting the network management module using a client-server architecture.

15. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein means for querying includes means for querying the network management system with a client device.

16. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform:

connecting a network management module to a network management system that stores identifiers associated with endpoints of virtual connections of a first network over a second network to obtain the identifiers, wherein the network management module

resides within a web server,

compiles the one or more existing identifiers upon receiving the request from the browser, and

remotely displays the identifiers in a web page over an external third network in response to a browser request;

querying the network management system with the network management module over the second network for a list of assigned identifiers related to a switch in the first network, wherein the assigned identifiers were stored by the network management system prior to querying the network management system; and

provisioning a source identifier and a destination identifier for a new virtual connection between two logical ports manually by a service technician, wherein both the source identifier and the destination identifier differ from the displayed list of assigned identifiers.

17-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the network is a frame relay network, wherein the identifier is a data link connection identifier (DLCI), and wherein the virtual connection is a virtual circuit.